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BULGARIAN TWO-YEAR PLAN OF ELECTRIFICATION

Engr Marin Kalburov

According to a survey of the Main Electrification Administration, the requirements for electric power in 1947 are estimated at 800 million kilowatt-hours, but the country's obsolete and dilapidated equipment is scarcely able to produce even the 480 million kilowatt-hours envisaged in the Two-Year Plan. Prior to 9 September 1944 the machinery of power stations was so poor that yearly production reached only 340 million kilowatt-hours. However, because of the destruction of the major part of the European electrotechnical industry, Bulgaria is not expected to bring her thermal and hydraulic stations to full capacity before 1949. Possibly only at the end of that year will the balance between production and consumption be finally reached.

The Two-Year Plan envisages the following projects:

1. 12 thermoelectric stations with a total capacity of 165,200 volts, including the two large Maritsa and Pernik stations with 50,000 volts each; 16 hydraulic power stations with a total capacity of 63,200 volts, including the stations at the Roaitsa and Vucha dams, and those connected with the Kamen Prokhor, Burzeya and other dams; 16 transformer substations with a total capacity of 175,000 kilovolt-amperes, 560 kilometers of transmission lines of 110 kilovolts, 319 kilometers of transmission lines of 60 kilovolts, 1,517 kilometers of distribution lines of 20-15 kilovolts, 210 rural distribution networks, and 310 transformer and distributing stations.

Work on these projects will have to be continued in 1948. During the same year, the Main Electrification Administration will proceed to the construction of the following new projects: 2 thermoelectric stations with a capacity of 5,000 volts, 3 hydroelectric stations with a capacity of 1,500 volts, 2 transformer substations with a capacity of

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20,000 kilovolt-amperes, 465 kilometers of transmission lines of 110 kilovolts, 150 kilometers of transmission lines of 50 kilovolts, 1,181 kilometers of distribution lines of 20-15 kilovolts, distribution networks for 280 villages, and 317 transformer stations.

The construction of these projects necessitates the yearly manpower output of 6,500 unskilled workers, 3,000 mechanics, fitters and foremen, 1,000 technicians with intermediate training, and 300 graduate engineers specializing in electrical engineering. At present, however, the Main Administration can avail itself only of 20 percent of the needed personnel; the balance will have to be drawn from private industry or from other sectors, where it is not of essential use. Personnel will also be enrolled in special training courses.

There is also the problem of financing the electrification plan, which, in 1947, will require an expenditure of about 9 billion leva, 5 billion of which must be allotted for importing foreign equipment. Eleven billion must be provided for 1948, 7 billion of which will also have to be allotted for the purchase of imported machinery and equipment.

These heavy expenditures for imported goods call for a great effort on the part of the domestic economy to furnish the raw materials for the export trade which will provide the necessary foreign currency. Unfortunately, however, two successive drought seasons have greatly depleted the country's agricultural stocks.

A foreign-credit loan, extended for a period of 10-15 years, would facilitate these purchases substantially and prove most beneficial for the realization of the plan.

The funds required to cover the purchase of domestic goods and to pay for manpower and electric power are not presenting a serious problem and can be easily supplied from national sources.

The fulfillment of the plan, expected at the end of 1948, will provide an increase of 36 percent in the productive capacity of electric installations and in power production. The large new power stations, completion of which is contemplated in the beginning of 1950, will increase the capacity of installations threefold and provide an output of 1,360,000,000 kilowatt-hours, or an increase of 250 percent over the present output.

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